

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Evidence Being Taken In The Corpron Murder Trial

DEFENSE MAKES STRONG FIGHT

Great Legal Battle for the Liberty of an Accused Man Is Now in Progress—Large Number of Witnesses Will Be Examined

Promptly at nine o'clock this morning Judge Benson called the Court to order and the curtain went upon what is going to be the greatest legal battle ever fought in this county. This is not going to be the trial of Corpron so much as the test of the abilities of Geo. Noland and F. Stone. Both are men possessed of reputation as being great legal gladiators, and the little old court house will tremble as these two men limber up to their great struggle—one to free the other to convict—Frank Corpron.

Corpron is the last man one would expect to be implicated in a murder. He is of fine physique and handsome, a square jaw and chin, an honest and clear complexion—a man who could be more at home dancing children on his knee than in the dock. His appearance made a favorable impression on the spectators and will no doubt likewise with the jury.

On request of the state, the jury, immediately following the convening of court, visited the scene of the trouble—the Klamath Bar. To this proceeding objection was entered by the defense. On their return to the courtroom, the witness called was Lucius Emerson, 73 years old. He swore that he was in the Biggs saloon between 8 and 9 o'clock on the evening of December 24, 1907. He was watching a solo game, when Johnson entered the saloon. He came in and went to the counter, on which he placed a baby carriage, setting the floor a sack containing some blankets. He took two drinks. At the bar were the two Blahns, Schmidt and other men. From this he walked to the billiard table and made a few shots. Someone at the bar spoke to him and he looked toward it with the cue in his hand. When he reached the bar, they had a talk among them, then I heard

someone fall, and I looked to see who it was, and it was Mr. Schmidt. He was bleeding profusely. Johnson then grabbed the baby carriage in his right hand and the sack in the left hand and hurriedly left the saloon. I did not see what happened after this on account of the screen in front of the door.

"He was followed by Mr. Corpron and Mr. Petersteiner, Corpron being first. Corpron did not have anything in his hand but I think Petersteiner did. I did not see the billiard cue in Johnson's hand after Schmidt fell. The injured man was taken to the rear of the saloon where his wound was washed and bandaged. The next time I saw Johnson was when he was carried in and laid on the floor. He said nothing until the doctor came. The doctor wanted to look at the wound, but Johnson cursed him, telling him to get away, that he wanted some ice. Corpron went out and got a snowball, which he gave Johnson and he placed it on his eye.

"Corpron stated that he was sorry that the trouble occurred, especially on that evening.

"When Petersteiner returned, he was carrying the short end of a billiard cue in his right hand. (Witness identified cue and state introduced it as state's exhibit No. 1.) I was within six or seven feet from him. I did not see any blood on the cue. My eyesight is good and the lights were bright."

The witness described the cue carried by Johnson when he went forward to the bar. It was colored on one side.

On cross examination the witness insisted that, though Johnson was behind him, he could see everything he did and was sure that he did not change the cue which was lying on the table—a cue that had a red stripe on one side of it. This red stripe is going to play an important part in the trial, for the broken

cue that is to be introduced has no such mark.

On cross examination he further stated that Corpron stated that he did not believe there would be any trouble that evening, thus indicating the defendant's disposition to be peaceable.

JOHN SCHMIDT

John Schmidt, a laborer, aged 44, was the next witness. He it was who was struck by Johnson. He was standing at the bar when Johnson came in and said "Hello, Johnson No. 2."

"He told me about the presents he had purchased for his children and what they cost. He set up the drinks. I was talking with Henry Jansen about his approaching wedding and the music for the same. It was during this conversation that Johnson hit me. I remember nothing more until I was fixed up and returned to the barroom."

On cross examination he stated that he had had his head bandaged for three weeks, that for the week following the blow he thought he would surely die; that the injury still troubles him.

Jesse D. Hart, police officer was then called. He has resided here about 15 months and lived in Oregon about two years.

"On the evening of December 24, 1907, I was on my way to the Christmas tree at the Baptist church when I passed the Klamath Bar. I heard a noise as if someone were scuffling. I stopped to see what the trouble was when the door burst open and Johnson came out as if he were knocked or pushed out. It is a difficult matter to determine just whether he came out with his back or his face towards me, it happened so quickly. I heard two blows struck, one of which sounded like a stick coming in contact with wood, and the other as if it hit a body. I heard Johnson say 'Don't hit me. You are killing me.' I then started across the street and when almost to the point where Johnson was laying I heard Corpron say 'Don't hit him any more, you've run his eye out.' Petersteiner dropped the butt end of a billiard cue down on the street to the right of the door (witness identified piece of cue and it was introduced as evidence).

Corpron was the first one to come out of the saloon followed by Petersteiner."

He further testified that he could not swear that any blow was struck before Johnson came out of the door or when he was coming out; he saw no blow struck but heard a noise as if something had struck the baby carriage. Johnson had in his hand the handle of the doll carriage, the body of the carriage was missing.

"Corpron and I carried Johnson into the saloon and Corpron asked me to get a doctor. I went and got Dr. Maston. Johnson kept remarking that his head

was hurting and putting his hand up to his head. This provoked Dr. Maston and he remarked to let him alone until he gets sober and then send for me."

The witness further testified that Petersteiner wanted to assault Johnson after he was carried into the saloon, but was prevented from doing so by the witness; that Petersteiner remarked that he would "kill the d---n ---." Hart was on the stand when court adjourned for dinner.

When court convened, Mr. Hart resumed his seat and testified as to the location of the screen between the door and the bar.

On cross examination he testified in answer to questions that Johnson might have come out face first, but not as if he had stumbled and fell, but as though he had been knocked or pushed out of the door. The cross examination was very brief.

Charles N. Faith, of Bonanza, a carpenter, age 50 years, followed Hart. He was in the Klamath Bar on the evening of December 24, 1907, prior to the trouble. He left and met Johnson going toward the saloon, passing him at the Klamath Livery. He returned half an hour later and saw Johnson lying on the floor injured, saw two pieces of billiard

(Concluded on last page.)

"CLAY BAKER" NEXT

Will Be Presented Thursday Under Direction of Mr. and Mrs. Mong

On Thursday night Mr. and Mrs. Mong will present their beautiful drama "The Clay Baker" with some of our foremost dramatic talent in the cast. When Mr. Mong gave this play in Houston's Opera House some time ago, those of our people who witnessed the production, not only declared Mr. Mong the greatest character actor ever seen on the local stage, but praised the play as one of the strongest and most beautiful dramas they had ever witnessed.

The play deals with the experiments of Peter Denig, an old inventor, who

MR. WILLIAM V. MONG IN HIS SUCCESSFUL PLAY THE CLAY BAKER



WILLIAM V. MONG IN AS IN PETER DENIG

has striven to re-produce unbreakable china and who in his moment of deepest despair, when his enemies have apparently triumphed over him and his poverty, and his home and his furnaces are to be taken from him, finds the secret he has labored many years to discover. There is a love story or two, the machinations of designing men and other side lights to give the play the diversified dramatic proportion, but main interest of course centers in the clay baker himself.

Mr. Mong keeps this interest at high tension throughout by his unquestioned talent. He has constructed his delineation of the old inventor along lines that are reminders of the late Joe Jef-

ANOTHER AUTO LINE

From Ashland to Pelican Bay During Next Summer

BOAT CONNECTION TO THE FALLS

Portland Parties Will Invest \$12,000 in Establishing and Equipping the Line With White Steamer Machines to Handle the Traffic

person in his famous character of "Rip Van Winkle" and he has not failed to produce a striking, an original and a complete picture.

Mr. Mong has arranged to give a percentage of the proceeds of Thursday night's performance to the Public Library and this coupled with the fact that our people may expect to see one of the greatest dramatic performances ever given in Klamath Falls, will undoubtedly pack the house. The seats will go on sale at the Perfection at one o'clock to-morrow.

Girls Are Plentiful

To the Editor:— We noticed in your paper a statement that there are so many more boys than girls in Klamath county. We call your attention to the fact that you have overlooked the Tule Lake basin and especially the upper portion. Here in an area of less than three miles square are eight families containing twenty three children under twenty years of age, five of whom are boys and eighteen are girls.—Rancher.

Secretary Garfield has announced a new land policy and has instructed landofficials and special agents that henceforth their duties will consist as much aiding honest settlers in complying with the land laws as in indicting and convicting offenders. The policy is directly opposed to that of Secretary Hitchcock, who looked upon every man who filed upon public land as a suspicious character and justly entitled to all the annoyance and odium that officials of the department could cast upon him.

Two hours after he had resigned as president of the Carnegie Trust company of New York, Leslie M. Shaw, former secretary of the treasury, opened his presidential campaign. He resigned at 8 o'clock and two hours later he made his opening address before the Republican club of Marshall, Mich.

The Ashland papers state that J. W. Whitney, of Portland, who has been representing the Remington type writer company in Southern Oregon for the past two years announces that he has made arrangements with Portland parties whereby he will put on an automobile service the coming summer to handle the tourist and other travel to Klamath county. Mr. Whitney has studied it out that the Ashland-Pelican bay is the most direct, best and shortest route from the railroad to the scenic attractions in Klamath county and he will work it out that way. Mr. Whitney says the distance of 46 miles from Ashland to Pelican bay can be covered in good season to connect with the boats from Pelican bay to Klamath Falls which is only a two an one-half hour ride and this will give his route by close connection with the boat a first-class opening for Klamath Falls travel.

Mr. Whitney expects to start the season about June 1st and will have two White Steamer automobiles to start with. He expects to build up a good travel over this route to Ft. Klamath and Crater lake. There is \$12,000 to be invested in the plant and the season is expected to run from June to October.

Remove Dust First

W. Lair Thompson of Lakeview is spoken of as a possible republican candidate for Prosecuting Attorney. From what we can learn of Mr. Thompson he would make a good official. As the Circuit Judge lives in Klamath county, it would be nothing but fair and just to have the Prosecuting Attorney come from Lake county. We are a firm believer in an equitable division all around. Every section has a right, and should be represented.—Silver Lake Leader. As to Mr. Thompson's qualifications we cannot write intelligently, as he has hardly been in Lake county long enough for one to judge. It might be well to give him time to get the dust of Linn county out of his clothing before electing him to office in Lake.—Lakeview Herald.



Do It Now!

When the birds commence to chirp and the flowers blossom and the sun is just warm enough to make you satisfied with life then is when you will want to get in tune with nature and tog up with a nice suit or two. Don't wait too long. Come and see the gingery, snappy patterns we are showing in our Spring Suitings.

WHY BOTHER WITH ILL FITTING "Ready Mades" when we are ready to fill your every whim at the same prices.

GET THE TAILORING HABIT

KKK STORE

KLAMATH FALLS FASHION SHOP

GOOD LUCK

Attends the Fisherman that uses

OUR FISHING TACKLE

Fly Hooks, Spoon Baits, Reels, Lines, Steel and Bamboo Rods.

They are constructed for scientific fishing and no matter how unskilled the fisherman success will attend his efforts if he uses our tackle.

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